



**Homeland
Security**

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

17 December 2015

Top Stories

- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors declared a state of emergency December 15 due to the release of up to 1,200 tons of methane into the atmosphere from a leaking Southern California Gas Co. well site. – *Los Angeles Daily News* (See item [1](#))
- Three men from Florida, New Jersey, and Maryland were charged December 15 with a computer hacking and identity theft scheme in which they stole the personal information of millions of people and gained over \$2 million in illegal profits. – *U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey* (See item [27](#))
- United Kingdom police arrested a suspect December 15 believed to be linked to a data breach at VTech Holdings Ltd that compromised more than 6 million children profiles and more than 4.9 million parent profiles. – *Associated Press* (See item [30](#))
- Eighteen suspects were arrested in connection to a \$2 million gift card scheme by stealing merchandise from retail stores, returning it for store credit, and reselling the cards in Deltona at half their values December 14. – *WFTV 9 Orlando* (See item [32](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *December 16, Los Angeles Daily News* – (California) **LA County declares state of emergency over Porter Ranch gas leak.** The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors declared a state of emergency December 15 due to the release of up to 1,200 tons of methane into the atmosphere from a leaking Southern California Gas Co. well site located above Porter Ranch over a period of 50 days. The declaration will allow for more in-depth air monitoring and help with efforts to cap the well.
Source: <http://www.dailynews.com/environment-and-nature/20151215/la-county-declares-state-of-emergency-over-porter-ranch-gas-leak>
2. *December 14, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Hanford man pleads guilty to stealing over \$100,000 from auto center at Navy base.** A Hanford man pleaded guilty December 14 to stealing approximately \$111,900 while working at the auto service center at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Lemoore where he accepted cash payment from customers purchasing gasoline, entered a lower amount for the transaction, and pocketed the difference from 2011 – 2013. The man also changed the dates or amount of gasoline delivered to the center.
Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/crime/article49805155.html>
3. *December 14, Lincoln Journal Star* – (International) **TransCanada facing penalties for alleged unsafe pipeline operation.** The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration notified Canada-based TransCanada of four pipeline safety violations after an October 2012 inspection found corrosion and small holes in a section of its Keystone pipeline. Proposed penalties total \$187,200.
Source: http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/transcanada-facing-penalties-for-alleged-unsafe-pipeline-operation/article_4cb1622c-a1e4-5240-949a-8b40e17512ec.html

Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *December 15, Chattanooga Times Free Press* – (Tennessee) **TVA completes refueling of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant.** Officials from Tennessee Valley Authority reported that the Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant's Unit 2 nuclear reactor completed its planned refueling and maintenance outage December 15. The outage replaced 80 of the unit's 193 fuel assemblies and inspected the reactor vessels to confirm design requirements that may mitigate future outages.
Source:
<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/business/aroundregion/story/2015/dec/15/tva-completes-refueling-sequoyah-nuclear-plant/340593/>

Critical Manufacturing Sector

5. ***December 15, U.S. Department of Labor*** – (Illinois) **Illinois metal plating company exposes workers to noise, toxic metal, other hazards at Cicero plant.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Illinois-based Electronic Plating Co., with 1 willful, 8 repeated, 8 serious, and 1 other-than-serious safety and health violations following a December 10 inspection which found that the company failed to protect workers from metal, machinery, and live electrical hazards at its Cicero manufacturing facility. Proposed fines total \$157,080.

Source:

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=29262

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

Financial Services Sector

6. ***December 15, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey*** – (New Jersey) **Monmouth County, New Jersey stock promoter admits role in \$33 million microcap stock manipulation scheme.** A Holmdel, New Jersey man pleaded guilty December 15 to his role in a \$33 million microcap stock manipulation scheme that used a “pump and dump” tactic to artificially inflate the stock prices of 4 publically traded companies, known collectively as the Target Companies, through manipulative trading and other fraudulent means. The man worked with other co-conspirators and gained approximately \$13 million from the scheme.
Source: <https://www.fbi.gov/newark/press-releases/2015/monmouth-county-new-jersey-stock-promoter-admits-role-in-33-million-microcap-stock-manipulation-scheme>
7. ***December 15, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission*** – (Connecticut) **SEC announces fraud charges against investment adviser.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announced fraud charges December 15 against Connecticut-based Atlantic Asset Management LLC (AAM) for investing more than \$43 million of client funds into illiquid bonds issued by BFG Socially Responsible Investing Ltd., a partial owner of AAM, without disclosing to clients that their sale would generate private placement fees for a broker-dealer affiliated to the company.
Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/pressrelease/2015-280.html>
8. ***December 14, Reuters*** – (National) **New York lawyer convicted of Maxim magazine deal fraud.** A New York lawyer was found guilty December 14 for his involvement in a scheme to help fraudulently secure \$31 million in financing from investors in order to help a co-conspirator purchase Maxim magazine. The pair provided fake bank account statements and emails to lenders in order to borrow \$8 million, and attempted to secure an additional \$20 million for the purchase of the magazine.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-crime-maximmagazine-idUSKBN0TX2F720151214>

Transportation Systems Sector

9. *December 16, CNN* – (Tennessee) **Southwest flight rolls off taxiway in Nashville.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported that Southwest Airlines 31 traveling from Houston to Nashville rolled off the taxiway upon landing at Nashville International Airport December 15 and got stuck while taxiing to its gate. Eight passengers were taken to area hospitals for minor injuries and the FAA is investigating the incident.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/15/us/nashville-southwest-flight/index.html>
10. *December 16, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Storm drops up to 2 feet on Colorado; 500 flights canceled.** Denver International Airport in Longmont was forced to cancel approximately 500 flights after a winter storm brought 24 inches of snow December 15. The storm closed schools in both Colorado and Utah and several highways.
Source: <http://www.whdh.com/story/30752835/storm-drops-up-to-2-feet-on-colorado-500-flights-canceled>
11. *December 15, WTMJ 4 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **2 killed after being ejected from vehicle in Racine County.** Highway 75 in Racine County was closed for 5 hours December 15 while officials investigated a fatal accident that killed 2 people.
Source: <http://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/highway-75-closed-in-racine-county>
12. *December 15, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **Alaska Airlines flight makes emergency landing in Spokane.** Alaska Airlines Flight 2372 travelling from Seattle to Spokane was forced to make an emergency landing in Spokane before its scheduled arrival time December 15 after smoke filled the plane's cabin. The incident shut down the main runway at Spokane International Airport for approximately one hour, delaying two inbound flights.
Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2015/dec/15/alaska-airlines-flight-makes-emergency-landing-in-/>

For another story, see item [3](#)

Food and Agriculture Sector

13. *December 15, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Sun Noodle – New Jersey – issues allergy alert on undeclared egg in Tonkotsu Ramen.** Sun Noodle issued a recall December 14 for its Tonkotsu Ramen products due to misbranding and undeclared egg following a routine inspection at the company's facility in New Jersey. Products were sold to Asian food distributors in Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York and in several retail stores.
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm477413.htm>
14. *December 15, Upper Midwest Forum News Service* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota lifts bird flu quarantines.** The Minnesota Board of Animal Health lifted all quarantines on State poultry farms affected by the avian influenza December 15 after farmers took

several steps to ensure that any flu virus was eliminated.

Source: <http://www.wctrib.com/news/state/3904578-minnesota-lifts-bird-flu-quarantines>

15. ***December 15, U.S. Department of Labor*** – (New Jersey) **Coca-Cola distribution warehouse in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, cited for repeat and serious safety and health workplace violations.** The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Coca-Cola Refreshments USA Inc.'s distribution facility in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, for 4 repeat and 2 serious safety and health violations December 11 following an investigation that found obstructed and unidentified exits as well as improperly stored compressed gas cylinders. Proposed fines total \$61,600.
Source:
https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=29259

Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

16. ***December 15, ABC News*** – (Michigan) **Flint, Michigan issues State of Emergency after threat of lead poisoning in children.** The mayor of Flint, Michigan declared a state of emergency December 14 after officials found elevated levels of lead in its drinking water supply following the city change in water source from the Flint River to the Detroit Water and Sewage Department October 16.
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/flint-michigan-issues-state-emergency-threat-lead-poisoning/story?id=35774029>
17. ***December 15, Portland Oregonian*** – (Oregon) **Blocked sewer line sends 28,000 gallons of raw sewage into Fanno Creek Tributary.** Officials reported that a blocked sewage line sent 28,000 gallons of raw sewage into a tributary of Fanno Creek for about 5 hours December 14 after the sewage was found flowing from a manhole. Officials advised nearby citizens to avoid Fanno Creek until December 16 due to increased bacteria in the water.
Source:
http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2015/12/blocked_sewer_line_sends_28000.html

Healthcare and Public Health Sector

18. ***December 16, Associated Press*** – (Arizona) **Company: 2 dead in medical helicopter crash near Phoenix.** Two out of three people aboard an Air Methods medical helicopter were killed when the aircraft crashed for unknown circumstances in Pinal County December 15. Authorities are investigating the incident.
Source: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/company-2-dead-in-medical-helicopter-crash-near-phoenix/ar-BBnClr4>

Government Facilities Sector

19. ***December 16, WABC 7 New York City*** – (New York) **Mace blamed for fumes that**

forced West Babylon School evacuation, hospitalizations. Classes at West Babylon High School on Long Island were expected to resume December 16 after the school was evacuated and classes were dismissed December 15 following the illness of 35 students and faculty members caused by fumes when 2 students sprayed mace in the hallway.

Source: <http://abc7ny.com/education/long-island-high-school-evacuated-after-dozens-overcome-by-fumes;-will-reopen-for-wednesday/1123765/>

20. **December 16, CNN** – (California) **Los Angeles schools set to reopen after threat.** Los Angeles city officials reported that schools in the district will reopen December 16 after more than 1,500 school sites were closed December 15 due to a threat that mentioned the use of explosive devices, assault rifles, and pistols toward students in schools.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/15/us/los-angeles-schools-closed-threat/>

21. **December 16, Missoula Missoulian** – (Montana) **Human error behind the release of sensitive Hellgate High information.** The Missoula County Public Schools superintendent reported that human error contributed to the inadvertent December 4 release of academic, medical, disciplinary, and criminal information for about 1,100 Hellgate High School students to 28 parents. An investigation determined that the students' information was unintentionally merged with a document attached to an email containing an agenda and notes.

Source: http://missoulian.com/news/local/thane-human-error-caused-hellgate-high-data-leak/article_30aa38f2-167b-50e8-83f2-76bdeb9a2166.html

For additional stories, see items [1](#) and [16](#)

Emergency Services Sector

22. **December 15, Grand Forks Herald** – (North Dakota) **Outbreak at Cass County Jail in Fargo sickens more than 100.** Officials are investigating the source of an outbreak that sickened 110 inmates at the Cass County Jail in Fargo December 15. Most of the sickened inmates were treated on site and a county kitchen inspector was brought in to inspect the jail's kitchen.
Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/news/crime-and-courts/3904584-outbreak-cass-county-jail-fargo-sickens-more-100>

Information Technology Sector

23. **December 16, Softpedia** – (International) **FireEye security devices provide attackers with backdoor into corporate networks.** Two security researchers discovered several FireEye security products had two zero-day flaws, such as the RCE and privilege escalation bug that can execute malicious code disguised as the highly privileged Malware Input Processor (mip) user and gain administrative privileges on the infected device. FireEye released patches addressing the vulnerabilities.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/fireeye-security-devices-provide-attackers-with-backdoor-into-corporate-networks-497702.shtml>

24. ***December 16, SecurityWeek*** – (International) **Mozilla patches critical flaws with release of Firefox 43.** Mozilla released its new Firefox 43 web browser that patches 21 security flaws including cross-site reading attacks, use-after-free vulnerabilities, and privilege escalation issues related to WebExtension APIs, among other patches, as well as several feature improvements, including a 64-bit version for Microsoft Windows.
Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/mozilla-patches-critical-flaws-release-firefox-43>

25. ***December 16, SecurityWeek*** – (International) **Critical DoS flaw patched in BIND.** The Internet Systems Consortium (ISC) released updates to its open source software, BIND that patches three vulnerabilities including a remotely exploitable denial-of-service (Dos) issue that can trigger a REQUIRE assertion in db.c, causing the server to close and deny service to clients, as well as a socket error that can cause the server to exit when encountering an INSIST assertion failure in the “resolver.c” library. The latest updates also fixes an Open SSL vulnerability connected to the BN_mod_exp function that could produce issues on x86_64 systems.
Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/critical-dos-flaw-patched-bind>

26. ***December 16, Help Net Security*** – (International) **Asian company is the newest APT threat.** A researcher from CloudSek CTO discovered the group, dubbed Santa APT was targeting international software companies and individuals to exploit confidential information via a desktop malware that disguises itself on the targets computer, collects files, and sends the files back to the attacker’s Command & Control (C&C) server, and through a second malware that targets Microsoft Android and Apple iOS devices.
Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=3180

27. ***December 15, U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of New Jersey*** – (New Jersey) **Three men arrested in hacking and spamming scheme.** A U.S. Attorney official reported December 15 that three men from Florida, New Jersey, and Maryland were charged with conspiracy to commit fraud and activities in connection to computers, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud after the trio allegedly compromised the personally identifiable information (PII) of millions of several different corporate employees and generated more than \$2 million in illegal profits by creating a computer program to distribute disguised spam emails and used proxy servers and botnets to conceal the origin of the emails while collecting login credentials of employees, personal information, and confidential business information.
Source: <https://www.fbi.gov/newark/press-releases/2015/three-men-arrested-in-hacking-and-spamming-scheme>

28. ***December 15, IDG News Service*** – (International) **TeslaCrypt Ransomware attacks are increasing.** Security researchers from Symantec reported that the file-encrypting ransomware program, dubbed TeslaCrypt has been targeting computer games and related software, increasing its infection rate from 200 a day to 1,800. The ransomware infects a system via email attachments with the words “invoice,” “doc,” or “info” that contains heavily obfuscated JavaScript code designed to evade antivirus detection and download the ransomware program.
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/article/3015454/security/teslacrypt->

[ransomware-attacks-are-increasing.html#tk.rss_security](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <http://www.it-isac.org>

Communications Sector

Nothing to report

Commercial Facilities Sector

29. *December 16, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Early morning 3-alarm fire displaces 34 residents in Jersey City.** Officials reported that 34 residents were displaced from a Jersey City apartment complex after a 3-alarm fire began on the upper floor of the complex and spread to 3 adjacent buildings December 16. The cause of the blaze is under investigation and no injuries were reported.
Source:
http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2015/12/early_morning_fire_leaves_30_displaced_in_jersey_c.html
30. *December 15, Associated Press* – (International) **British police arrest Vtech hacking suspect.** Police in the United Kingdom arrested a suspect December 15 reportedly believed to be linked to a November 30 data breach at VTech Holdings Ltd, a company that sells electronic toys, that compromised more than 6 million children profiles and more than 4.9 million parent profiles including names, email addresses, Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, passwords, and mailing addresses, among other information. The suspect stated he targeted VTech Holdings Ltd to expose the company's security flaws and raise awareness for security practices, with no intention to sell the stolen data for profit.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_29258377/british-police-arrest-vtech-hacking-suspect
31. *December 15, CNET* – (National) **Target back on naughty list with another security vulnerability.** Researchers from Avast discovered a flaw in Target's mobile application that can allow attackers unauthorized access to customers' addresses, phone numbers, and other personal information from wish lists created with the mobile application December 15. The vulnerability was found while researchers were examining the security and privacy of various mobile buying applications, as well as viewing which permission levels were granted to users.
Source: <http://www.cnet.com/news/target-back-on-naughty-list-with-another-security-vulnerability/>
32. *December 14, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **'Operation Plastic Paradise'** nets 18

arrests in \$2 million gift card scheme. Authorities in Volusia County announced December 14 that 18 suspects were arrested in connection to a \$2 million gift card scheme involving 2 store owners, 4 employees, and 12 customers who stole merchandise from retail stores, returned it for store credit gift cards, and resold the cards to cash-for-gift-card businesses in Deltona and Daytona Beach at half their values. Investigators determined that 2 stores in particular bought 16,870 cards in an 8-month period resulting in profits of \$100,000 per month.

Source: <http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/operation-plastic-paradise-nets-18-arrests-2-milli/npjmt/>

For additional stories, see items [2](#) and [27](#)

Dams Sector

Nothing to report



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the reports - The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for 10 days on the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/IPDailyReport>

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